

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 2-10 and 12-21 are pending in the application, with claims 20 and 21 being the independent claims. Claims 1 and 11 are sought to be canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 2-4, 6, 9, and 12-18 are sought to be amended. New claims 20 and 21 are sought to be added. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute similar or broader claims, with respect to the canceled and amended claims, in the future. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejection under Obviousness type Double Patenting

On page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 11 based on non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1 and 17 of U.S. Patent No. 7,123,349 in view of U.S. Application No. 2002/0074635 to Hattori *et al.*

Claims 1 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection thereto moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0024645 to Nakano ("Nakano") in view

Reply to Office Action of January 26, 2009

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of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0074635 to Hattori *et al.* ("Hattori") and U.S. Publication No. 2002/0162574 to Satou *et al.* ("Satou"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection thereto moot.

Claims 4, 5, 9, and 10 have been amended so that each now ultimately depends from claim 20. New claim 20 recites, *inter alia*,

engaging the machine part with *a first handler*, wherein the first handler has either a plurality of *tapered protrusions* or a plurality of *tapered grooves* that substantially correspond to, respectively, a plurality of *tapered grooves* or a plurality of *tapered protrusions* located on the machine part;

...

engaging the machine part with *a second handler*, wherein the second handler has either a plurality of *tapered protrusions* or a plurality of *tapered grooves* that substantially correspond to, respectively, a plurality of *tapered grooves* or a plurality of *tapered protrusions* located on the machine part[.]

(emphasis added)

Applicants submit that none of Nakano, Hattori, or Satou, whether taken alone or in combination, disclose a *first* and a *second* handler nor a machine part with corresponding *tapered* protrusions and *tapered* grooves that engage. Further, Applicants submit the combination of Satou with Nakano and Hattori is improper because it would require undue experimentation to transform the robot arm disclosed in Satou to function as a first and a second handler as recited in Applicants' claim 20. Since claims 4, 5, 9, and 10 each ultimately depends from claim 20, they are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 20 and in further view of their respective features. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4, 5, 9, and 10, and allowance thereof.

Claims 1-5 and 9-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0045131 to Verbeke *et al.* ("Verbeke") in view Hattori and Satou. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection thereto moot.

Claims 2-5 and 9-10 have been amended so that each now ultimately depends from claim 20 and claims 12-16 have been amended so that each now ultimately depends from claim 21. New claim 21 recites features similar to claim 20, *supra*. Applicants submit that none of Verbeke, Hattori, or Satou, whether taken alone or in combination, disclose a *first* and a *second* handler nor a machine part with corresponding *tapered* protrusions and *tapered* grooves that engage. Further, Applicants submit the combination of Satou with Verbeke and Hattori is improper because it would require undue experimentation to transform the robot arm disclosed in Satou to function as a first and a second handler as recited in Applicants' claims 20 and 21. Since claims 2-5 and 9-10 each ultimately depends from claim 20 and claims 12-16 each ultimately depends from claim 21, they are patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 20 and 21, respectively, and in further view of their respective features. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-5, 9-10, and 12-16, and allowance thereof.

Claims 6-8 and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Nakano in view of Hattori and Satou, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,825,470 to Miyai *et al.* ("Miyai"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 6-8 and 18-19 have been amended so that each now ultimately depends from claim 20 and claim 17 has been amended so that it now ultimately depends from claim 21. New claims 20 and 21 recite similar features, *supra*. Applicants submit that none of Nakano,

Hattori, Satou, or Miyai, whether taken alone or in combination, disclose a *first* and a *second* handler nor a machine part with corresponding *tapered* protrusions and *tapered* grooves that engage. Further, Applicants submit the combination of Satou with Nakano, Hattori, and Miyai is improper because it would require undue experimentation to transform the robot arm disclosed in Satou to function as a first and a second handler as recited in Applicants' claims 20 and 21. Since claims 6-8 and 18-19 each ultimately depends from claim 20 and claim 17 ultimately depends from claim 21, they are patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 20 and 21, respectively, and in further view of their respective features. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6-8 and 17-19, and allowance thereof.

Claims 6-8 and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Verbeke in view of Hattori and Satou, and further in view of Miyai. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 6-8 and 18-19 have been amended so that each now ultimately depends from claim 20 and claim 17 has been amended so that it now ultimately depends from claim 21. New claims 20 and 21 recite similar features, *supra*. Applicants submit that none of Verbeke, Hattori, Satou, or Miyai, whether taken alone or in combination, disclose a *first* and a *second* handler nor a machine part with corresponding *tapered* protrusions and *tapered* grooves that engage. Further, Applicants submit the combination of Satou with Verbeke, Hattori, and Miyai is improper because it would require undue experimentation to transform the robot arm disclosed in Satou to function as a first and a second handler as recited in Applicants' claims 20 and 21. Since claims 6-8 and 18-19 each ultimately depends from claim 20 and claim 17 ultimately depends from claim 21, they are patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 20 and 21, respectively, and in further view of their respective features. For at least these

reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6-8 and 17-19, and allowance thereof.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of claims 2-10 and 12-19 be withdrawn and the claims be passed to allowance.

New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 20 and 21. Applicants respectfully submit new claims 20 and 21 are allowable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner consider and allow claims 20 and 21.

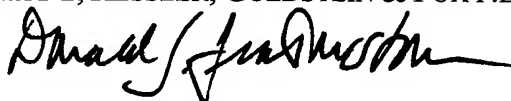
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Donald J. Featherstone
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 33,876

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1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600